


Etzel, R.A., Pattishall, E.N., Haley, N.J., Fletcher, R.H., and Henderson, F.W., "Passive Smoking and Middle Ear Effusion Among Children in Day Care," Pediatrics 90(2): 228-232, 1992.

The authors conducted a study in an attempt to determine whether reported exposure to ETS was associated with an increased rate of otitis media with effusion or with an increased number of days with otitis media with effusion during the first three years of life. Children who had a serum cotinine concentration greater than 2.5 ng/mL were considered to have been exposed to ETS. Cases of otitis media with effusion were diagnosed using pneumatic otoscopy by nurse practitioners and pediatricians. The authors reported a relative risk of 1.38 [95% CI: 1.21-1.56] for the children with serum cotinine concentrations of 2.5 ng/mL. The authors conclude that "8% of the cases of otitis media with effusion in this population and 17.6% of the days with otitis media with effusion may be attributable to exposure to tobacco smoke."

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